

Goessel, Kathryn M -FS

From: Katie Fite <katie@westernwatersheds.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2012 3:30 PM
To: Goessel, Kathryn M -FS
Cc: Katie Fite
Subject: Panther (Big Creek) Hot Springs Geothermal Lease
Attachments: PastedGraphic-1.tiff

DEar SCNF and Ms. Goessel,

Western Watersheds Project is greatly concerned about the proposal for geothermal leasing in the area of Panther (Big Creek) .

It is essential that an EIS be prepared to protect the extraordinary wild land, ESA listed fisheries, forested wildlife, recreational values including those associated with geothermal waters, and other very important values of Forest lands that are greatly threatened by this proposal, and all its direct, indirect, cumulative and linked impacts.

This project may permanently alter and destroy underground aquifer waters and layers.

It may deplete springs and spring flows great distances away from the lease/lease development sites.

We are alarmed at the incremental greatly segmented process by which "exploration" bleeds into full-blown development, and this lease issuance will underlie it all.

Full and detailed analysis of all changes in water flows, studies on aquifers, and full baseline information on springs over 00 mile radius must be collected.

Wilderness waters may be depleted. BIM WSA waters may be depleted. Bull trout, salmon-steelhead, rare frog and other waters may be depleted.

All of these impacts will be amplified by the adverse impacts of climate change.

All logging, "treatment", roading, mine, grazing and otter disturbance across this landscape must also be critically examined. This all combined will impact native terrestrial and aquatic species, and lead to losses in habitat and populations.

Please keep us fully informed.

Any exploration must be done without any surface disturbance, cross country travel, or roads.

The Forest must deny this request. These lands are not capable or suitable of supporting it.

The Forest should begin a process to withdraw these lands from leasing.

Sincerely,

Katie Fite
Western Watersheds

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